

REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated September 24, 2004. Claims 3-9, 19, 20, 23, and 24 are presented for examination. Claims 10, 21, and 22 have been canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter. Claims 1 and 2 have been canceled, and their recitations incorporated into Claims 5 and 6; this action is taken without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter. Claims 3-9, 19, and 20 have been amended to define more clearly what Applicant regards as his invention. Claims 23 and 24 have been added to provide Applicant with a more complete scope of protection. Claims 5-9, 19, 20, 23, and 24 are in independent form. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

Applicant notes with appreciation the indication that Claims 5 and 6 would be allowable if rewritten so as not to depend from a rejected claim, and with no change in scope. Since these claims have been so rewritten, they are now believed to be in condition for allowance. Independent Claims 19 and 20 are method and storage medium claims, respectively, corresponding to apparatus Claim 5, and have been similarly amended. Independent Claims 23 and 24 are method and storage medium claims, respectively, corresponding to apparatus Claim 6, and have been similarly amended. Accordingly, Applicant submits that Claims 19, 20, 23, and 24 are also in condition for allowance. Further, independent Claims 7-9 have been amended to include the allowable subject matter of Claims 5 and 6, and are also believed to be in condition for allowance.

The other claims in this application are each dependent from one or another of the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the

invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York Office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Leonard P. Diana".

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